



Birmingham Blue Dolphins

Tuesday, October 28, 2008

Fifth Edition

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Everybody Swims!
Everybody Wins!

Coach's Corner

Dear Parents and Swimmers,

Wow! What a wonderful way to begin the competitive season. In a brand new setting, many brand new swimmers joined our veterans and swam extremely well. Thank you to all of our meet managers and timers and officials and runners and marshals and concession workers and all of our volunteers who put on an excellent meet. CONGRATULATIONS to all of our swimmers!

Our first meet proved to be an intense orientation for all of us. I hope everyone met new people and had a lot of fun as we all learned a great deal.

I'd like to remind everyone of a few things that will help us as we move forward as a team....

- ▶ Swimmers should have their event numbers written on their hands before they report on deck. Event numbers are different at all of the meets we attend so there is no way swimmers could remember them. All of the entries are listed on the website so you can access the numbers easily. Coaches can't possibly provide that service at the beginning of a meet.
- ▶ Swimmers should come see a coach IMMEDIATELY after they swim a race for a recap. It is our best chance to teach and reinforce.
- ▶ Punctuality IS important! At the beginning of the warm-up session we quickly had our swimmers do their warm-up so that we could get them out and organize the relays. It's a daunting task---first we take attendance and make adjustments if a swimmer is missing; then we organize the swimmers. We have to write the names of the swimmers on their relay cards and then get the swimmers into position. When someone is missing, or arrives late, it really gums up the works. This weekend we had to scratch a few relay teams because swimmers were late and their relay mates were very disappointed when they couldn't compete. So keep your teammates in mind and plan to get to

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The meet entry for the Grand Rapids Thanksgiving Classic is posted on the Schedule and Entries page of the BBD website. Be sure to reserve your hotel room when you submit your meet entry. We would like a very strong showing at this meet.

Practice Updates for the Upcoming Week...

The following practices are changed for the upcoming week:

Beginning Monday, October 27th, the 9-10 practice on Monday and Wednesday at Derby will be split in two as follows (this is a permanent change to the regular schedule):

Mondays	9-10 Boys 5:30 - 7:00 9-10 Girls 7:00 - 8:30
Wednesdays	9-10 Girls 5:30 - 7:00 9-10 Boys 7:00 - 8:30

Friday, 10/31 No Practice for All Age Groups - Happy Halloween!

Attention Parents: Please visit the website regularly for any changes or updates to the practice schedule. Changes do occur during the week, sometimes with little notice. We do our best to inform you of these changes as soon as possible. The most effective way of doing this is on the BBD website, but you must visit the site to be in the know. If you have any questions navigating the website, please send an e-mail to bbd@htdconnect.com. For the regular season practice schedule of times and locations and a complete listing of practice updates, visit the Practice Schedule page on www.birminghambluedolphins.com.

Next Technique Clinic: Flip Turns for 10 & Under

Clinic:	Flip Turns for 10 & Under Swimmers
Who:	BBD Swimmers
Limit:	15 Swimmers
When:	Sunday, November 2, 2008 from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Where:	Birmingham Family YMCA
Reservations:	E-mail Kevin Fogarty @ kfogarty@ashmi.org . You will be notified if the clinic is already full. Due to the demand for clinics, respond early and please be sure your swimmer attends if signed up . There is no charge for BBD technique clinics.

Meet Entries Posted to the Website...

Entries for the following meets are now posted to the BBD website:

- [Grand Rapids Thanksgiving Classic: Entry Deadline Tuesday, Nov 4th @ 10:00 pm](#)

Visit the [Schedule & Entries](#) page on the website for details and deadlines.

Strong Kids' Kroger Cards Make Contribution to YMCA

Newsflash.... SKC's first Kroger Cares check totaled \$328.50 !!



Thank you. This is a great start. Remember to carry your cards and use them, because the Y in You makes the difference. Tony Pecoraro, Birmingham YMCA's new Executive Director shared a few facts with me about SKC:

BBD is one of SKC top contributors. The **Birmingham Y** fell short of its SKC funding goals last year, and was unable to fund certain initiatives. **SKC** can fund a BBD program need.

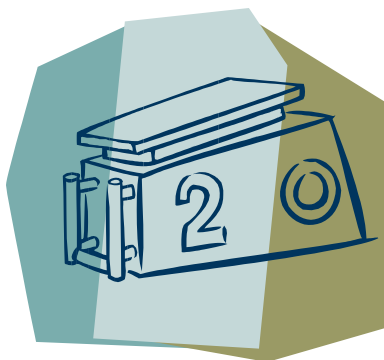
Y not make a difference, and it's free. Tell your kids this is your pay-back for their hard work!!

I always have cards on me, and instruction booklets. Also, we have some FUN family fund-raising projects (Top Secret) in the works. Stay Tuned.....



The following families have BBD merchandise ready to pick up at the YMCA:

Behe - Gamlin - Kerbawy - Kalil - Palo - Thompson - Winters



Important: Team Manager Online "Individual Meet Entries Report"

Throughout the season and after you have entered a meet, you must check the "Individual Meet Entries" report available on the Team Manager Online link on the [Schedule & Entries](#) page to be sure the information submitted is correct. Simply go to [Team Manager Online](#) and click on "Entries". Find the meet your swimmer has entered and check the information (events, times, etc.). If there is a discrepancy, please notify the Meet Entry Chairperson for that particular meet.

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meets ON TIME! It is greatly appreciated.

- ▶ Now that we have had a meet and the swimmers have a time for an event (or at least enough information to make an educated guess) NT (no time) will not be accepted in the future when entering a meet.

Going forward...our high school boys will swim in Grand Blanc, and then our next team meet will be at the YPAC Meet at Royal Oak Middle School. **The next meet on our schedule is the RAYS Meet in Grand Rapids. It's an excellent meet. There is a Friday night session with longer races (a great time for swimmers to try their first 500 freestyle race or their first 400IM. It gives the swimmers a chance to spend a night or two in a hotel and bond with teammates and then when we travel for championship meets later in the year it won't throw them. Once we see the entries we will try to arrange some sort of social event for Saturday night. Please consider it!**

Goal sheets will be coming out soon with all of the time standards. This past weekend we had a number of swimmers qualify for YMCA State Meet, the US Swimming 12 and Under Meet and the YMCA Zone Meet. I think the season is off to a great start. Thanks for helping to make it so.

Have a great week!

Kevin



Newsletter and Web Site Information

The information found in the newsletters and on the website will help guide you through the 2008-2009 BBD swim season. The newsletter will be available each Monday morning for downloading from the website. The website will have information such as meet entries, practice schedule, coaches information, etc. We will also inform you, on the website, of any changes such as unexpected practice changes. Please take the time to see what is available on www.birminghambluedolphins.com. Also, if you have any suggestions, questions or comments, please feel free to send an e-mail to bbd@htdconnect.com. Thank you.



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